Carter Seeks to Boost CIA's Morale, Delivers Pep Talks at Langley

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President Carter, spending an hour yesterday at Central Intelligence Agency headquarters, said the agency's employes must be "more pure and more clean and more decent and more honest" than almost any other government workers.

"You almost are in the position of being like Caesar's wife," Carter told employes of the troubled intelligence agency.

The president flew by helicopter from the White House to Langley, Va., for the pep talks. He spent more than an hour in briefings on CIA operations and speaking with several hundred staff members outdoors and then in private with 56 undercover agents.

Carter, addressing the several hundred agency employes, said: "Some who have been here for many, many years have had inclinations to be concerned about . . . the willingness of (CIA Director) Stan Turner and myself to let the American people know who you are, what you do, some aspects of your work that don't violate the security of our country."

Voicing strong praise for the employes' work, he said, "There is a growing appreciation for what this agency does, for what you individually do for our nation. There is now a stability in the CIA. There have been too many shocks, too many rapid changes in the past. But the policies that have now been established . . . will give you a much surer sense of what the failure will bring."

The president acknowledged the conflict posed by "legitimate openness" on the one hand and "careful preservation of security."

"It takes intelligence, it takes some judgment, it takes common sense to draw that distinction" between what should be made public and what should remain secret, he said.